The erection of plant and machinery for private persons continued to receive attention. The number of new installations started during the year was 32 which, together with the number of those previously undertaken by the department, makes up a total of 103.

The financial assistance rendered by the department, for industrial undertakings, was the grant of 14 hire-purchase applications for Rs. 40,270 and of 16 loans amounting to Rs. 76,000.

38. The Director of Industries and Commerce and the Director of Mines and Geology have referred to the help rendered in various investigations pertaining to their respective departments by some of the members of the staff of the Indian Institute of Science. His Highness' Government wish cordially to associate themselves with the acknowledgments made by these officers.

## Co-operative Societies.

39. One hundred and three new societies were registered during the year and the registration of 28 societies was cancelled. The actual number of societies working at the end of the year was 800. The membership rose from 53,267 to 64,293, the share capital from Rs. 16,36,465 to Rs. 20,26,489, the working capital from Rs. 30,85,747 to Rs. 44,21,688, the total transactions from Rs. 1,31,13,546 to Rs. 1,72,53,813, the net profits from Rs. 1,61,521 to Rs. 2,17,976 and the reserve fund from Rs. 96,669 to Rs. 1,59,626.

The increase in the number of societies was not so great in the year under consideration as during the previous year. This was due to the fact that attention was concentrated on the consolidation of societies as evidenced by the large increase in the working capital, such numerical expansion as has taken place being spontaneous. The year is also noticeable for the increase in the number of industrial co-operative societies which rose from 19 in 1914-15 to 29 in 1915-16 and for the establishment of a new Provincial Bank.

40. In view of the increase of work in the department and in order to afford some relief to the Registrar, four districts have been constituted into a separate subordinate charge under the Assistant Registrar, and a Personal Assistant has been given to the Registrar to help him in office work.